

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated November 19, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 7-9, 13, 14, and 29 are hereby amended. Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 8-33 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,850,540 to Furuhashi et al. (hereinafter "Furuhashi") taken with U.S. Patent No. 6,218,968 to Smeets et al. (hereinafter "Smeets") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,815,080 to Taguchi et al. (hereinafter "Taguchi"); and rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuhashi taken with Smeets as applied to claim 7 and 9, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,244,259 to Koike (hereinafter "Koike"); and objects to claims 9-13 and 15 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuhashi taken with Smeets in view of Taguchi. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of independent claim 7 and request reconsideration. Independent claim 7, as amended, recites "receiving means for receiving an analog signal formed by compressing at least n-bit data, wherein n is an integer, and wherein the analog signal includes a unique voltage level corresponding to each n-bit data value." Nothins in Furuhashi, Smeets, and Taguchi, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7, and claims 8-15, which depend from claim 7, are allowable over the cited references.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuhashi taken with Smeets as applied to claim 7 and 9, and further in view of Koike. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request consideration in that the additional reference, Koike, fails to cure the deficiency of Furuhashi and Smeets to teach or suggest at least the feature of claim 7 discussed above.

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Reply to Office Action dated: November 19, 2004

Docket No.: 8733.080.10

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: May 17, 2005

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